

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 – 14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The switching device according to claim 27 44, wherein the movable switching element includes a striker that can be displaced linearly against a biasing force.
16. (Previously Presented) The switching device according to claim 15, wherein the electrical switch has a displaceable switching pin which can be actuated by a trip cam provided on the outer circumference of the displaceable striker.
17. (Currently Amended) The switching device according to claim 27 44, wherein the movable switching element includes a striker rotatable about its longitudinal axis, the striker being operable to define the path for movement of the trip cam depending on its rotational disposition to engage or separate the operative connection between the switching element and the electrical switch.
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Currently Amended) An arrangement for detecting at least two different positions of a movable door element, the arrangement comprising:

a switching device having a movable switching element and an electrical switch in operative connection to the switching element, the switching element being operable to selectively separate the operative connection between the switching element and the electrical switch, the switching element having at least one trip cam disposed thereon for selective movement along a first path wherein the trip cam operates the electrical switch and a second path different from the first path wherein the trip cam does not operate the electrical switch, the door element and the switching device having an operative connection therebetween and the operative connection between the door element and the switching device being selectively separable.

20. (Previously Presented) The arrangement according to claim 19, wherein the movable switching element includes a striker and the striker being movable out of a region of engagement of the door element by at least one of a displacement and a lowering movement.
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Previously Presented) The arrangement according to claim 19, wherein the operative connection between the switching device and the door element can be separated by exposing a depression arranged in the door element to partly receive the striker.
23. (Previously Presented) The arrangement according to claim 22, wherein the depression can be exposed by means of a slider arranged in the door element.
24. (Currently Amended) A household appliance comprising:

at least one electrical load in the form of a selected one of an electrical interior light and an electrical load that is not an electrical interior light, the at least one electrical load being actuatable by a selected one of:

a switching device having a movable switching element having a trip cam disposed thereon and an electrical switch in operative connection to the trip cam of the switching element with the switching element being operable to selectively separate the operative connection between the switching element and the electrical switch; and

~~an openable door element arrangement~~ an arrangement for detecting at least two different positions of a movable door element including a movable door element in operative communication with the  
~~including a switching device having a movable switching element and an electrical switch in operative connection to the switching element with the switching element being operable to selectively separate the operative connection between the switching element and the electrical switch and the door element and the switching device having an operative connection therebetween and the operative connection,~~ wherein the operative communication between the door element and the switching device being is selectively separable.

25. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 24, wherein the switching-on and switching-off function for the at least one electrical load can be deactivated by separating the operative connection between the switching element and the electrical switch.
26. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 24, wherein the switching-on and switching-off function for the at least one

electrical load can be deactivated by separating the operative connection between the switching device and the door element.

27. (New) A switching device comprising:

an electrical switch disposable between an electrical switch on state and an electrical switch off state;

a switching element, the switching element being movable along a response path in response to either an input or an absence on an input to the switching element; and

a trip component disposable between a trigger state and a non-trigger state, the trip component being operable in its trigger state to effect a change of the electrical switch between its electrical switch on state and its electrical switch off state, the trip component, in its non-trigger state, operating to not effect a change of the electrical switch between its electrical switch on state and its electrical switch off state, and the trip component and the switching element being operatively associated with one another such that, when the trip component is in its trigger state and the switching element is moved along its response path, the trip component effects a change of the electrical switch between its electrical switch on state and its electrical switch off state and, when the trip component is in its non-trigger state and the switching element is moved along its response path, the trip component does not effect a change of the electrical switch between its electrical switch on state and its electrical switch off state.